

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 026559

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ORIGIN HUD-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS STATE 026559

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, AS, PFOR

SUBJECT: DARWIN CYCLONE EVACUATION STUDY

1. ADMINISTRATOR OF FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION (FDAA) REQUESTS EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON SENDING THREE-MAN TEAM TO AUSTRALIA TO STUDY EFFECTS OF CYCLONE THAT STRUCK DARWIN ON CHRISTMAS MORNING. OBJECTIVE OF STUDY IS TO DRAW LESSONS FROM A LARGE-SCALE EVACUATION TO DISTANT RELOCATION SITES WITH VIEW TOWARD APPLYING SUCH LESSONS TO COMPARABLE DISASTER SITUATIONS IN THIS COUNTRY. MAJOR THRUSTS OF STUDY ARE: (A) MAGNITUDE AND LOGISTICS OF THE EVACUATION; (B) SOCIO-BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND THEIR SOLUTIONS; (C) IMPACTS OF EVACUATION ON DARWIN AND ITS RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS; AND (D) ORGANIZATIONAL PLANNING FOR EVACUATION.

2. FDAA, IN DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTERING PROGRAM UNDER PL 93-288 THAT PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF NATURAL DISASTERS STRIKING COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES, AND FOSTERS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 026559

PREPAREDNESS AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AGAINST SUCH DIS-

ASTERS BEFORE THEY OCCUR.

3. TEAM WILL CONSIST OF:

MR. DONALD G. EDDY, FDAA REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR REGION VIII
(DENVER);

DR. J. EUGENE HAAS, PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY
OF COLORADO, BOULDER, COLORADO;

DR. HAROLD C. COCHRANE, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, COLORADO
STATE UNIVERSITY, FORT COLLINS, COLORADO.

THEY WILL TRAVEL ON OFFICIAL US PASSPORTS AND PLAN TO
ARRIVE IN SYDNEY ON OR ABOUT MARCH 10, 1975, AND PROCEED
TO DARWIN, WHERE THEY EXPECT TO REMAIN FOR UP TO TWO WEEKS.
SHORT DURATION TRIPS TO CANBERRA AND TO ONE OR TWO OF THE
EVACUEE RELOCATION SITES IN OTHER AUSTRALIAN CITIES MAY
ALSO BE NECESSARY.

4. FDAA WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ADVICE AS TO WHICH KEY
AUSTRALIAN, NORTHERN TERRITORY, MUNICIPAL AND DARWIN
RECONSTRUCTION COMMISSION OFFICIALS SHOULD BE CONTACTED
INITIALLY, AND HAVING EMBASSY MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGE-
MENTS FOR SUCH CONTACTS. IF LODGING FACILITIES IN DARWIN
ARE SCARCE, SUGGESTIONS ON THIS MATTER WOULD ALSO BE
HELPFUL. KISSINGER

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